

SITUATION REPORT NO. 31
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: August 18, 2005 Time: 3:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – On Friday, July 22, 2005, North Dakota received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for damages incurred by severe storms, flooding and ground saturation.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** Minor injuries were sustained by some of the 400 bicyclists participating in the Cycling Around North Dakota in Sakakawea Country (CANDISC) early Wednesday, August 10. They were caught in severe weather when one inch of rain with hail fell between Mott and Regent in Hettinger County along N.D. Highways 8 and 21.
3. **DAMAGES:** Forecasts, issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) on Thursday, August 18, indicated widespread rains during the past 48 hours will cause minor river rises in the Red River Basin. The heaviest rainfall occurred in the central Red River Valley, from Fargo to Grand Forks, and the upper Devils Lake Basin. Two to five inches fell from late Tuesday evening, August 16, through Wednesday afternoon, August 17. In many areas, topsoil was relatively dry; therefore, some of the rain was absorbed and runoff was moderate. Area rivers and streams have shown minor rises and are expected to remain below flood stage. Additional rainfall today will be generally light with less than one-half inch forecasted.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from Emergency Managers:

Bottineau County

Minor flooding is occurring along Willow Creek near Willow City. The latest stage was 10.6 feet at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 18, down 0.1 feet since Wednesday, August 17. Flood stage is 10.0 feet. Minor flooding is forecasted; however, the river is falling. The river is expected to fall below flood stage next Thursday, August 25. Willow Creek has been above flood stage since Thursday, June 30.

Pembina County

On August 12, the Emergency Manager reported significant damage caused by river bank erosion, which is threatening public infrastructure to include 11 roads.

Stutsman County

On Wednesday, August 17, portions of the county received rain varying from 0.25 to 4.0 inches in some isolated areas. The city of Jamestown received approximately 1.80 inches of rain, most of which fell within two hours. Winds in Jamestown gusted to 61 miles per hour (mph) during the storms with numerous reports of pea size to 0.25 inch hail. Considerable street flooding occurred and the railroad viaduct was closed due to flooding. Several additional residential streets were closed to protect homes from wave action caused by vehicular traffic. A number of manhole covers were dislodged from the force of the rainwater. A window was broken and a garage was reported destroyed at a residence located approximately four miles north of Jamestown.

Walsh County

On Wednesday, August 17, the Emergency Manager reported excessive rainfall began falling approximately 4:30 a.m. By 9:00 a.m., the following amounts had been recorded:

Edinburg	4.6 inches	Park River	1.1 inches
Grafton	1.6 inches	Hoople	3.0 inches
Minto	3.0 inches	Lankin	0.3 inches
Nash	2.5 inches	Forest River	1.7 inches
Adams	1.0 inches	Fordville:	0.1 inches
Fairdale	0.8 inches		

Edinburg received pea to dime size hail for approximately 20 minutes. Several homeowners in the Edinburg area have indicated seepage problems with basements. Rain continued throughout the morning.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: On Tuesday, August 16, the North Dakota Long Term Recovery Committee, in collaboration with the N.D. Department of Emergency Services (DES), Division of Homeland Security, issued a news

release regarding set deadlines for unmet needs applications submitted by residents statewide who have experienced uninsured disaster-related damage from the severe summer storms and flood activity of 2005. Residents with unmet needs must call 2-1-1 no later than Wednesday, August 24. After that date, calls for assistance for this disaster will no longer be accepted. Completed applications must be postmarked by September 9. Once applications are completed and returned, they will be evaluated for potential case management services. The Long Term Recovery Committee is comprised of representatives of The Salvation Army, Lutheran Disaster Response/Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ, Catholic Charities North Dakota, Dakota Conference United Methodist Disaster Response, Presbytery of the Northern Plains (PCUSA) and the American Red Cross.

Staff from the 2-1-1 service, provided by the Mental Health Association in North Dakota, received 413 calls requesting assistance with unmet needs as of Tuesday, August 16. The 2-1-1 service provides information referral and crisis management services in North Dakota. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to help individuals locate assistance.

The Salvation Army has been providing cleanup kits to Pembina County residents. Additional kits will be placed in the cities of Walhalla, Drayton and Pembina, as needed.

Blankets from the Mott Ambulance were brought to the Mott/Regent School to warm some of the cyclists caught in the Wednesday, August 10, rainstorm. Coffee and other refreshments were served.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On Tuesday, August 16, Governor John Hoeven visited local communities in Nelson County to see firsthand the impact of long-term flooding on public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. The Governor took an aerial tour prior to arriving at the airport in Lakota. He then toured the county by ground with local officials. Following the ground tour, Hoeven met with city and county officials and Water Resource District members.

On Tuesday, August 16, the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) issued a news release urging North Dakotans affected by flooding to postpone repairs to flood-damaged homes or businesses until the structures are dry. The agency provided guidance on how to ensure structures are dry. The information advises that although the first response after a flood is to begin repairs or reconstruction as soon as possible, rebuilding too soon can cause mold to grow on wood and behind sheetrock. Health officials recommend the use of moisture meters available through local North

Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service offices, local public health units or local building material suppliers or contractors.

NDDoH also provided the North Dakota 2-1-1 service area with health-related information regarding flood- and mold-related issues. The memorandum provided recovery guidance for flooded homes, septic systems, well water and flood-impacted waste; as well as telephone contact numbers for local health units and the various divisions of the NDDoH.

An environmental scientist for the NDDoH reported on Wednesday, August 17, that results of water quality testing at Lake Metigoshe strongly suggest the water is safe for swimming. The testing was conducted as part of efforts by the Tri County Flood Task Force to address flood-related problems in the area. Samples were taken on Wednesday, August 10, at eight locations in Lake Metigoshe and tributaries, including School Section Lake, Canada Creek and the swimming beach at Lake Metigoshe State Park.

The Pembina County Emergency Operations Center has distributed 76 clean-up kits and information on flood cleanup to private individuals.

The deadline for Request for Public Assistance (RPA) for FEMA-1597-DR-ND is Monday, August 22, for the 20 counties and two tribal nations initially declared and Friday, September 2, for the six add-on counties and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security